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ties which can be attained only through the laborious process of absorbing and digesting enormous masses of intricate and minute detail. The one serious defect in the make-up of the book is the lack of a satisfactory map showing roads, trails, rivers, and towns upon which the reader might trace schemes of internal improvements in which the state was interested. An unfortunate misprint on the population map of 1840 reverses the legend, making the map read as if the most densely settled area were that having the lowest percentage of population. A welcome addition in forthcoming volumes would be an appendix showing the representation of the state in Congress and the term of office of its governors.

MARTHA L. EDWARDS

*The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870.* By Arthur Charles Cole. [Centennial History of Illinois, Vol. III.] (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1919. 499 p.)

Although the author announces in the preface to this volume that his theme is the transition of Illinois from a frontier community to a modern commonwealth, none the less his method of treatment throws into high relief the four years of the Civil War and makes that event the pivot of his period. Both politically and industrially he discusses Illinois before and after the war, in separate chapters placed at some distance apart. For example, the agricultural conditions before the war are considered in chapter three, "Prairie Farming and Banking"; while chapter seventeen discusses "Agriculture and the War." The railroad problems of the fifties are divorced from those of the sixties. "Church and School 1850-1860" occupies chapter ten; "Religion, Morality, and Education, 1860-1870," chapter twenty, near the end of the volume. By this method of treatment continuity is lost and the process of the transition from a frontier to a modern state somewhat obscured. This choice of method is in some measure justified by the immense importance of the Civil War in the history of the Prairie State. The war did actually bisect the epoch Mr. Cole describes; it did condition not only political but economic progress to such a degree as to merit the "before" and "after" method of treatment. More, perhaps, than that of the neighboring states was the history of Illinois involved in the course of the Civil War. It was the election of "the man from Illinois" that precipitated the war; it was the generalship of the military leader from Illinois that ended its fighting. The fortunes of the state were irretrievably bound up in its prosecution.

Illinois was also during the period treated in this volume in its divided opinions and sectional antagonisms an epitome of the nation. Southern Illinois was practically a border state, and the "democracy

of Egypt" so abhorred the "black republicanism" of the northern counties that secession of the lower section was everywhere discussed. Some of the most brilliant pages of this book describe how the southern counties swung into line for the Union when the acid test of recruiting for the Northern army occurred. They even exceeded in their chivalric zeal the quota assigned to them and furnished more than their share of fighting men. In that prewar sectional strife the central counties of Illinois held the balance; from their midst came Lincoln, the man of the hour. Neither in the extreme north nor in the extreme south of his state was he thoroughly understood or unwaveringly supported. Indeed, in the darkest hours before his second nomination it was military victory rather than political enthusiasm that even in his home state turned the tide in the President's favor. It is significant also that the convention which nominated McClellan for the presidency in 1864 was held at Chicago, the scene of Lincoln's triumph four years before. All the political activity that led up to the declaration of the war, that carried it to a victory for the North, and that followed as an aftermath of war conditions Mr. Cole has portrayed with no unskillful hand. He has moreover produced not merely a history of a single state or that of a divided community in a death grapple with tremendous forces within itself; he has given us a portion of the nation's history so intertwined with that of the state that the telling of one involves that of the other. The appearance of this volume, with that of the others in the Centennial series, marks a new departure in state histories. We have in them not only the history of a state apart from other states, but of a state within the nation, working out its own peculiar destiny, while contributing at the same time to the progress of the federal republic.

In accordance with modern canons Mr. Cole relies very largely upon contemporary newspaper sources. These he supplements by letters from private collections, some of them now first brought to light to aid in the writing of this book. His pages are a mosaic of citations from the local press, skillfully matched, although at times it is difficult to know where the author begins or the editors stop. The author's own style is clear and simple; frequently the impetus of the narrative carries him along with it; his wealth of material compels him. Statistics are so woven into the body of the narrative that they illuminate the subject rather than appall the reader. Upon the whole the narrative is readable and brings back the flavor of public opinion of sixty and seventy years ago.

In his handling of political forces and cross currents the author's touch is more sure than in his treatment of economic and cultural movements. The studies of these latter subjects do not compare for thoroughness with those in the kindred work of Frederick Merk in his

*Economic History of Wisconsin during the Civil War Decade.* We are inclined to think that Mr. Cole has not grasped the full importance of Illinois' railway history. There is no more significant feature of his volume than the map opposite page 34 showing the increase of railroads in the decade between 1850 and 1860. Had the war begun in 1850, as the contest over the compromise of that year threatened, the commercial allegiance of the Northwestern states would have been with the Southwest. The Illinois cross-line railroads changed all this and made possible in 1861 the solidarity of the North. These facts Mr. Cole nowhere connects with the political situation. His discussion of the movements of population is excellent and gives some especially pertinent material, such for example as the westward emigration from Illinois during the fifties and the filling in of the farms in the central and southern parts of the state by the New England element. Another interesting phase of this subject is the movement during the war years into Illinois from the South. "Cairo," our author says, "was the Ellis Island for this immigration," made up of Unionists and refugee whites from the secession portions of the border states, also of free blacks and later of freedmen which helped to give Illinois her large colored population. Meanwhile the earlier Illinoisians had generously welcomed the refugee whites, who quickly assimilated to the mass of the population and in a measure replaced the Southern element drained away in the decade of the fifties.

The most severe test which Mr. Cole had to meet was his presentation of the well-worn problems of the political power of Douglas, the rise and election of Lincoln, and the origins of the Republican party. With regard to the first of these we get some new light upon Douglas' responsibility for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise from the attitude of the senator's newspaper organ at Springfield. Mr. Cole believes that the Illinois senator was actuated by "a spirit of opportunism" and brands him as deliberately conscious of the effect of his action on the Missouri Compromise, which he had described in 1849 "as a sacred thing, which no ruthless hand would ever be reckless enough to disturb."

In describing the rise of the Republican party Mr. Cole gives credit to the early movements in Wisconsin and Michigan that influenced the first "republican" mass meetings in Illinois. He shows that Lincoln was at first lukewarm toward the new party, fearing it was too strongly abolitionist; that he clung to "obsolete Whig traditions"; and that it was not until 1855 that he formally allied himself with the Republicans.

Concerning the Lincoln-Douglas debates Mr. Cole has little new to offer. Perhaps he stresses a point when he says that Douglas

"reluctantly" accepted the challenge of his competitor. Nor was it quite true that Lincoln had "no opportunity" to reply to the Freeport doctrine at the time of its promulgation, since he closed the debate with a thirty-minute talk. It is probably a printer's error on page 180 that makes the vote for Lincoln in the Illinois senate forty-one in place of the actual forty-six.

On the nomination and election of Lincoln to the presidency in 1860 Mr. Cole's careful study of newspaper sources sheds some interesting light. After detailing the well-known events of the Chicago convention, Mr. Cole declares that "the gay holiday atmosphere of the canvass makes it stand out as one of the most picturesque of presidential elections"—a startling statement to those who consider it in the light of its tragic dénouement.

Over the actual military operations of Illinois troops during the war Mr. Cole passes briefly; he expresses state pride in the size of the quotas and in the fact that they were large enough to avoid, in great measure, the draft in the President's home state. The extent of the disaffection and of copperheadism in Illinois is fearlessly revealed. The plot of election day, 1864, to free the Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas and to begin an uprising is described, but not that planned and thwarted the preceding August during the Democratic convention at Chicago. Wisconsin may have a just pride in the action of one of her sons, Colonel Benjamin J. Sweet, who as federal officer in charge of Camp Douglas thwarted both plots by prompt vigilance.

In portraying personalities Mr. Cole is less able than in estimating forces and tendencies. The great figures on his canvas—those of Lincoln and Douglas—he wisely leaves to the reader's previous knowledge. The men of lesser import, however, who throng the picture, he might well have made more real by brief sketches of their careers. As it is their outlines are vague and shadowy; even United States senators and governors seem incidental and transitory.

The book includes a comprehensive bibliography, an adequate index, and good maps illustrating the several political campaigns, the foreign-born population, and the density of the population on the eve of the war. It seems to the reviewer that the volume fulfills the promise made to the people of Illinois by the Centennial Commission and justifies the production of state histories by trained historical scholars, fostered by state action.

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